

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /072 W

-----054852 310956Z /11

R 310704Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3705

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: MARCOS STEPS UP ANTI-FOREIGN
ATTACKS

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS NAMED TWO FEMALE JAPANESE NATIONALS WHEN ASKED FOR DETAILS OF HIS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT FOREIGN MEDDLING IN THE PRESENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION IS PLANNING AN ANTI-FOREIGN MASS RALLY TODAY. EARLIER, MARCOS REPEATED HIS CHARGE THAT THE CIA HAS MEDDLED IN THIS AND PREVIOUS ELECTIONS. STRONG EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF THE U.S. AND JAPAN HAS BEGUN TO APPEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE Q-AND-A AFTER A TELEVISED SPEECH TO THE MANILA ROTARY CLUB MARCH 30, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT TWO JAPANESE NATIONALS (NIGATORI NIKORAYA 25, AND MICHU NAKAMURA, 28) HAD MEDDLED IN THE ELECTIONS BY ADDRESSING AN OPPOSITION RALLY IN THE TONDO SLUM AREA. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE HAS BEEN STOPPED "FOR THE MOMENT". ALMOST IMMEDIATELY IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER REYES ORDERED THEIR ARREST AND DEPORTATION. ACCORDING TO BULLETIN TODAY, REYES ALSO "CALLED A TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS TO LOOK INTO REPORTED PARTISAN POLITICAL
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ACTIVITIES OF ANOTHER FOREIGNER HERE."

3. ACCORDING TO TIMES JOURNAL, MORE THAN 60,000 LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOP-SPONSORED KABATAANG BARANGAY AND OTHER YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING REGIONS WILL MARCH TO RIZAL PARK TODAY (MARCH 31) "TO PROTEST FOREIGN MEDDLING IN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL POLI-

TICAL AFFAIRS." (COMMENT: RIZAL PARK, TWO BLOCKS FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY, IS THE TRADITIONAL SITE FOR MASS RALLIES.)

4. ON MARCH 29, ADDRESSING 15,000 SCHOOL TEACHERS, PRESIDENT MARCOS COMPLAINED THAT "CIA OPERATION CHIEFS" HAD SAID THEY HAD HELPED ELECT FORMER PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTS. "IS THAT NOT EMBARRASING? FOREIGNERS THINK IT IS EASY TO PERSUADE NOT ONLY ORDINARY FILIPINO BUT EVEN PRESIDENTS OF THE COUNTRY TO SERVE AS THEIR TOOLS TO FURTHER THEIR DESIGNS." HE SAID HE WAS "TAKEN ABACK" WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO SET FREE "AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE WHO IS IN PRISON" OR, IF THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEND HIM TO U.S.

5. DAILY EXPRESS OF MARCH 30 EDITORIALIZED: QUOTE
...WHILE NATURALLY DESIRING THAT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES FAVOR THEIR INTERESTS, SUPERPOWERS LIKE THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE EXCEEDING BOTH MORAL AND DIPLOMATIC BOUNDARIES IF THEY ARE TO OPENLY OR INSIDIOUSLY MANIPULATE PEOPLE AND EVENTS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. PERSUASION AND COERSION ARE COMMON WEAPONS BUT INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE AND CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS ARE ENTIRELY ABOMINABLE METHODS. ... IF PROVEN TRUE, THEN THE PROCESSES TO CORRECT THESE DISTORTIONS IN POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS AND ALIEN ACTUATIONS SHOULD
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IMMEDIATELY BE SET INTO MOTION. UNQUOTE.

6. TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNIST FRANCISCO DE LEON, WHO NORMALLY AVOIDS DOMESTIC ISSUES, COMMENTED ON AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S DEPARTURE: QUOTE ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT HAD PINPOINTED AMERICANS AMONG ALIENS MEDDLING IN THE COMING APRIL 7 POLLS ONLY LAST MONDAY, HE HAD ON PREVIOUS INDICATIONS GIVEN BROAD HINTS THAT U.S. NATIONALS HAD TAKEN UNDUE INTEREST IN THE SIDE OF THE OPPOSITION WITH SUBTLE ALLUSIONS THAT AMERICANS WERE FINANCING ANTI-ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATES. NEWSOM HAD BLUNTLY

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3706

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DENIED THIS IN A PRESS CONFERENCE. DESPITE THE ENVOY'S DENIAL, THE PRESIDENT REITERATED THE CHARGE DURING AN OPEN FORUM AFTER HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE KBP LAST MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MANILA HOTEL (REFTEL). ... PRESIDENT MARCOS RAISED SEVERAL INTRIGUING QUESTIONS DURING HIS KBP APPEARANCE WHICH COULD ONLY BE ANSWERED BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE PHILIPPINE LEADERSHIP BY THE U.S. ON HOW DOMESTIC AFFAIRS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. ... NEWSOM'S PROMOTION CAN DO MUCH IN CLEARING UP THE ATMOSPHERE OF DOUBTS AND MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES. FOR THE PROBLEMS OF POLL MEDDLING AND THE U.S. INCREASING PRESSURES CAN BE RESOLVED JOINTLY BY THE TWO COUNTRIES. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON NEWSOM IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE CAN SPEED UP THE SETTLEMENT OF THESE THORNY AND TOUCHY ISSUES OR PROLONG THE IMPASSE. UNQUOTE.

7. TIMES JOURNAL EDITORIAL OF MARCH 31 FOLLOWS IN FULL:
QUOTE MANY AMERICANS CANNOT, OR SIMPLY WOULD NOT, ADMIT THAT THEIR DOLLARS AND THEIR GUNS NO LONGER HOLD SWAY OVER OTHER COUNTRIES. OR HAT THEIR FREE-WHEELING WAYS CAN'T BE FORCED ON OTHER PEOPLES ANYMORE. THIS TYPE OF AMERICANS, MANY OF WHO CAN BE FOUND LIVING ON THE FAT
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OF OTHER LANDS, CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE YANKEE YOKE STILL RING THE NECK OF DOCILE NATIVES. WHETHER AS MILITARY OFFICERS, DIPLOMATS, BUSINESS EXPATRIATES, OR NEWS CORRESPONDENTS, THEY CONTINUE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE THEME THAT MIGHT IS RIGHT AND CARE LITTLE ABOUT THE TRADITIONS AND SENSITIVITIES OF THEIR HOSTS. SEEING THEM, ONE WOULD THINK UNCOUTHNESS IS IN AND ELEMENTARY COURTESY IS OUT. THUS, THE OVERBEARING DIPLOMAT, THE ARROGANT MILITARY OFFICER AND THE ILL-MANNERED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IS TO MANY UNINFORMED AMERICANS

THE PICTURE OF A FEARLESS DEFENDER OF THE FREEDOM OF OTHER PEOPLE. THE MUCH-VAUNTED TRADITION OF FAIR PLAY AND HONESTY IS NOW BUT BLURRED PHRASES IN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN MIND. THIS IS REALLY A SAD COMMENTARY ON MODERN AMERICA, ONCE THE BASTION OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND FAIR PLAY. SUCH MANNERS AND EGOCENTRICISM WOULD MAKE THE FOUNDING FATHERS LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF CROCHETING NANNIES. OF COURSE, THERE ARE STILL DECENT AMERICANS BUT THEY SEEM TO BE A VANISHING LOT. THIS RARE BREED BELONGS TO THE GROUPS OF THOMSONS WHO CAME TO THE PHILIPPINES NOT TO PREACH AND MEDDLE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS BUT TO TEACH THE VALUES OF LIFE TO OUR PEOPLE. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THEN THAT NO LESS THAN PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED ALARM AND APPREHENSION OVER THE REPORTS THAT MANY OF THESE AMERICANS ARE DISCREETLY TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE APRIL 7 ELECTIONS. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE REPORTS MENTIONED NOT ONLY THE AMERICANS BUT INDICATED THAT SOME JAPANESE, WHO HAVE PROBABLY IMBIBED THE HAUGHTY AND DEPLOREABLE MANNERS OF SOME AMERICANS, ARE ALSO INTERFERING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS. SOME JAPANESE LORDS HAVE BEEN LATELY INCURRING THE WRATH OF OTHER PEOPLES IN ASIA BECAUSE OF THEIR OVER-BEARING WAYS IN AND MUSCLING IN ON THE LEGITIMATE

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HUSINESS OF THE NATIVES. THEIR METHODS MAY BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OBNOXIOUS TYPE OF AMERICANS BUT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE THE SAME - TO SUBJEGATE THE NATIVES ECONOMICALLY. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THESE TYPES OF AMERICANS AND JAPANESE, IF INDEED SUCH GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT INVOLVED, WOULD RECALL THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIZENS BACK TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT AND PREVENT THE ALIENATION OF THEIR FILIPINO FRIENDS. THE POLITICS OF A NATION IS ESSENTIALLY ITS OWN AND HARDLY WOULD A RESPECTABLE COUNTRY ALLOW MEDDLING IN ANY FORM FROM OUTSIDERS. UNQUOTE.

8. A TIMES JOURNAL EDITORIAL CARTOON SHOWS AQUINO WITH BALLOT IN HAND SAYING "I'LL VOTE WITH THE CIA, NOT FOR THE CIA."

9. ON THE LIGHTER SIDE, WE ARE INFORMED THAT AMERICANS PRESENT AT THE MANILA ROTARY LUNCHEON MARCH 30 (AT WHICH PRESIDENT MARCOS SPOKE) WERE ASSESSED TONGUE-IN-CHEEK FINES OF 250 PESOS EACH FOR "INTERFERENCE".

10. COMMENT: TO PUT ALL THIS IN SOME PERSPECTIVE, A LONG-TIME AMERICAN RESIDENT REMINDED US RECENTLY THAT "AMERICAN INTERFERENCE" HAS BEEN AN ISSUE IN EVERY MAJOR PHILIPPINE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN GOING BACK

AT LEAST TO THE EARLY FIFTIES. IN A SENSE, THUS, THE
1978 CAMPAIGN IS MORE OF THE SAME ALTHOUGH AS INDICATED
REFTEL THE LEVEL OF PHILIPPINE SENSITIVITY ON THIS SCORE
IS RATHER HIGHER THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE AQUINO CASE.
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